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Dear Mr. Dulles:

In our meeting with Ambassador Luce on January 2, 1954, I was very much interested in a reference made by Ambassador Luce and Mr. Tasso to a United States directive which was sent out about a year ago opposing NATO action which might be construed as "anti-Soviet". I myself was not familiar with the directive to which reference was made, and accordingly we had a careful check made of our files for 1952. We found two messages which might have afforded a basis for the above reference.

The first, TOPOL 168, relates to proposed NATO action regarding the Communist-sponsored Vienna Peace Conference. The second, TOPOL 595, deals with a proposed statement by Lord Ismay. Copies of these telegrams are attached as of possible interest. In both instances, the messages seem to deal primarily with the public posture taken by NATO. In this connection, I do know from fairly long association with cabinet members and high officials of the different NATO Governments, both here and when I was assigned to SHAPE, that there is a very strong feeling on the part of our allies that NATO should not be presented as an organization which is directed against any nation or group of nations, but rather that it should be portrayed as a purely defensive collective organization which is more than a simple military alliance and is endeavoring to work toward ever-closer cooperation of its members for constructive action in all fields. I think there is general agreement on this concept and that NATO should not let itself be portrayed as essentially an anti-Cominform organization.

In addition to the above two messages, I am attaching three other messages from our files which were transmitted in the early months of 1952 (TOPOL 612, TOPOL 789, TOPOL 811). These messages reflect a positive endorsement of NATO action against Communism, although they do express reservations concerning the practicability of certain forms of action.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles,
Director of Central Intelligence.

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Finally, in our meeting on January 2 there seemed to be some confusion with respect to the so-called Danish Proposal, presented in early 1952, for the creation of a NATO committee on subversive activities. While initially the record indicates that the United States hesitated to commit itself to participate in such a committee, because of uncertainties among United States intelligence agencies, after further study the Danish Proposal was endorsed by this Department and other interested agencies of the United States Government. While the CIA, for reasons which I think we fully understand, declined to participate, the FBI agreed to provide United States representation, and the committee came into existence in March 1953. It is my understanding that it has served primarily as a medium for the exchange of information on Communist activities and on Western control measures. Its accomplishments have been limited, but I believe it has nonetheless served a useful purpose.

Sincerely,

Douglas MacArthur II

Attachments:

TOPOL 168,
TOPOL 595,
TODEP 612,
TOPOL 789,
TOPOL 812.

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